DATE: July 2016

TO: 4-H Dairy State Fair Trip Winner

FROM: Bradley W. Rugg; Program Director, Fairs and Animal Science, 4-H State Fair Superintendent

Congratulations on winning a trip to the 2016 edition of the Minnesota State Fair 4-H Dairy Show. Your agenda will be busy. It will include several learning opportunities ranging from species interviews to showmanship and from consumer oriented promotions to the ultimate show ring experience.

This year will be the 8th year for an exciting new activity. The Dairy Showcase will occur on Sunday, August 28 at 10:00 am – we will begin with a dairy brunch for finalist, their parents and sponsors, a program will follow at 11 am. The program will feature the top 25 4-H dairy project members in Minnesota. If the 4-H dairy project is one of your passions and you have surfaced as a youth dairy leader in your county, you want to read this memo carefully. Dairy Showcase finalists will be introduced and recognized at the event on the 28th and will receive handsome cash awards. Please note that the sponsor/finalist brunch and program will be held in the AgStar Arena.

A team of volunteers and staff have been working on a scorecard and scoring system to determine the top 25 dairy project members. It accurately reflects the leadership and participation opportunities available to dairy project members throughout the year. The scoring will give points for participation in our dairy judging (2018) and dairy bowl (2016) programs. Additional points can be accumulated for 2016 State Fair excellence in the dairy interviews, showmanship, the conformation and genetics placings. Bonus points will be awarded for the “top performers” in each of these four categories. This area will represent approximately 60% of the total scoring. It should be noted that finalists do not need to be successful or participate in all of these activities. Many finalists did not judge last year or dairy bowl this year. Others were not successful in dairy showmanship or did not make the interview finals. In other words, finalists can surface even though they may not record points in each category of the scorecard. With the moving the State 4-H Dairy Judging Contest to Thursday of Livestock weekend, please note that 4-Hers will gain points from either 2015 or 2016 contest – whichever is higher.

If you have or feel you will excel in your age category in two or three or all four of these areas you will want to complete the Leadership Profile. The remaining 40% of the scoring system will be determined via the Leadership Profile. It is available online and must be submitted online. The web address to access the Leadership Profile is:

www.4-H.umn.edu/events/dairy-showcase.html

If you do not have access to the internet to complete the Leadership Profile, you can either use a computer at your local Extension Office (call first to schedule an appointment) or complete the Profile at the State Fair. You will find the Leadership Profile will ask six questions to gauge leadership contributions and assess growth. Each response carries a maximum number of words ranging from 50-100 words. You will note in the instructions that you will be allotted a specific number of characters per question. If you exceed this allotment, any words beyond the allotment will be deleted. This format assures continuity in all Leadership Profiles. All will have the same font size; you will be unable to bold or underline responses. You will also be asked to list a reference, someone who can verify the accuracy of your Leadership Profile. You will note we have asked for home and cell phone numbers for your reference.

You will want to first print a sample of the Leadership Profile and do much of your work before you input the final version and send it. Like all resumes, you will want to list the most important accomplishments first. Again, this is why we ask that you utilize a “worksheet approach” before you finalize your final document.

There will be a bank of 4 computers for you to use at the State Fair. They will be located in the back of the Livestock Publicity Trailer, which will be located between the large cattle barn and the cattle annex (across from the washracks). This bank of computers will be open on Wednesday from noon until 7 PM and on Thursday from 8 AM - noon. Thursday NOON is the deadline for submission of the Leadership Profile. You can first obtain a copy of the worksheet from the computer assistant. Once you get on the computer, you will only be allowed 30 minutes to input your Leadership Profile. We would encourage you to find time to develop your Leadership Profile from home so that you can better think through your responses, as the atmosphere at the State Fair may not be as conducive to clear thoughts and prioritization. But the State Fair computers will be available so that we can maximize the number of participants.

You will be able to print your Leadership Profile using your print feature of the internet browser before you submit the profile, so make sure it reads the way you want it to before you push the “submit” button.

If you have questions, please feel free to stop in at the 4-H Livestock Office in the front of the cattle barn.

Good luck!!! This exciting program is designed to be a way of honoring the very top 25 members of the 4-H dairy project statewide. If the 4-H dairy project is your passion, please strongly consider taking the time to complete the Leadership Profile.